## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

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but a time is reached when the piper must be paid and, in this situation, I am the piper and I'm going to be paid. I want to see, as I stated, how much the rest of the state is going to allow itself to become complicit with the Omaha Public Schools. When the test scores remain uniformly low where black children and poor white children go to school, you may not be able to accept this but it's not those children's fault. Just like if you have people working in unhealthful conditions. packing house where things are not clean, and a lot of them contract illnesses, you do not say those are inferior people. You say the conditions under which they work cause them to contract an illness and these illnesses are to be treated. I, as a parent, cannot read, that does not excuse the public schools from...that does not excuse them from failing to teach my children. They cannot use any deficiency that I, parent, have as an excuse to not do the job they're paid to do. Are they saying they can only teach the children of those whose parents read proficiently? Are they saying they can teach children to read only if the children already know how to read when they come to school? I'm sure every doctor would love to be able to charge a patient money for treatment when no treatment is needed. The hospital would never lose a patient if the only ones allowed in the hospital are those who have no sicknesses. People go to doctors because they're ill. They go to hospitals because they're even more seriously ill. And if you had a hospital where everybody walks in with a song in their heart and they go out the back door on a gurney on their way to the mortuary, something is happening in the...in the hospital that ought not happen in a hospital. You all buy what these teachers say by way of alibi that they cannot teach these children. It's the teacher's job. But a lot of people who call themselves teachers are poorly trained. They not only do not know how to teach; they don't know the subject matter they are supposed to teach. I don't think that a teacher who says he or she is going to specialize in math should be excused from knowing something about geography. Do you know that teachers don't realize ...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...that geography is a subject that stands on